

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 ACDA-12 MCE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
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-----066553 120950Z /15
R 120117Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652, N/A

TAGS: SOPN MASS LI

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE ON TRADE RESTRICTIONS AGAINST
LIBYA

1. IN RESPONSE TO AUGUST 11 WASHINGTON POST STORY BY
THOMAS LIPPMAN FROM TRIPOLI ENTITLED "TRADE BAN IRKS
LIBYA" (SENT SEPARATELY BY ICA WIRELESS FILE), DEPARTMENT
PREPARED FOLLOWING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR AUGUST 11
PRESS BRIEFING, BUT SUBJECT WAS NOT RAISED. IF SUBJECT
RAISED IN TRIPOLI, HOWEVER, EMBASSY MAY ALSO DRAW ON
FOLLOWING FOR GUIDANCE.

2. QUOTE

QUESTION: IS THE PRESS REPORT ACCURATE THAT THE STATE
DEPARTMENT HAS VETOED THE SALE TO LIBYA OF TWO 727S, THREE
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747S AND 400 HEAVY DUTY TRUCKS?

ANSWER: WE HAVE THE 727 ISSUE UNDER REVIEW. DURING OUR
REVIEW WE WILL TAKE INTO ACCOUNT OUR OVERALL RELATIONS
WITH LIBYA AND THE SITUATION IN THE AREA AS WELL AS REPORTS
OF LIBYAN SUPPORT OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST ACTIVITIES.

WE ARE UNAWARE OF AN EXPORT LICENSE APPLICATION FOR THE SALE OF 747S TO LIBYA.

IN JUNE 1978 THE STATE DEPARTMENT RECONFIRMED ITS EARLIER RECOMMENDATION PROHIBITING THE EXPORT OF 400 HEAVY DUTY TRUCKS (OSHKOSH) TO THE LIBYAN ARMED FORCES.

QUESTION: WHY WAS THE TRUCK DECISION TAKEN?

ANSWER: WE CONCLUDED AT THAT TIME THAT THE FOREIGN POLICY INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES WOULD NOT PERMIT THESE TRUCKS TO BE EXPORTED.

QUESTION: HAD THE LIBYANS PAID FOR THE AIRCRAFT AND TRUCKS AS THE ARTICLE SAID?

ANSWER: WE SUGGEST YOU ASK THE COMPANIES CONCERNED.

QUESTION: HOW ABOUT THE EIGHT C-130S WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN DELIVERED BUT HAVE BEEN PAID FOR BY THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE?

ANSWER: THIS SALE OF AN ADDITIONAL EIGHT C-130S HAS NOT BEEN GIVEN THE REQUIRED MUNITIONS CONTROL LICENSE. IN FACT, THIS LICENSE APPLICATION REMAINS PENDING.

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IT IS TRUE THAT THESE AIRCRAFT ARE PAID FOR. THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT HAS NOT TO OUR KNOWLEDGE ATTEMPTED TO CANCEL THIS PURCHASE FOR WHICH THE EXPORT LICENSE HAS NOT BEEN GRANTED. UNQUOTE. CHRISTOPHER

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